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Serial No.: 09/733,229

APR 09 2007**REMARKS**

Claims 45-76 are now pending in this application. Claims 45, 46, 49, 65, 69 and 72 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Attorney Eric Gifford and Examiners James Sheleheda and Chris Kelly conducted a telephonic interview on April 3, 2007. The parties discussed the status of the claims.

Claims 45-55 and 58-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,385 to Wang (Wang) in view of Fang (6,816,201). Claims 56 and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang, in view of Fang and further in view of Machida (US 2003/0158932). As these claims have been cancelled the rejections are now moot.

The claims as now presented, specifically independent claims 45, 65 and 69, are directed at a network and method of reconfiguring an existing base of IRDs to deliver additional information such as electronic program guides or Web data to a user without modification to the IRD hardware. The IRD's low-speed serial data port, ordinarily used to debug the IRD, is reconfigured via software means to provide a low-speed data link to a viewing device (other than the video display device e.g. a TV, for displaying the broadcast television signals). The additional information is inserted in the satellite broadcast that is downloaded to the IRD. The software extraction means installed in the IRD extracts the additional information and directs it to the IRD's serial data port. A software application in the viewing device retrieves data from its serial data port and stores it in memory for display. The existing base of IRDs is reconfigured to provide this capability without internal modifications of the IRD hardware.

The existing base of designed and/or installed IRDs world-wide is in the millions. The cost to change the design and more particularly to replace the installed base of IRDs or to perform a hardware upgrade would be very high and would outweigh the commercial benefit of providing the

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addition services e.g. program guide or Web data, to the users. The current invention addresses the demand to provide additional information to consumers subject to the constraints of the existing IRD design in a commercially viable way. The low-speed serial data port is not an ideal solution in that its limited bandwidth does not support streaming of TV signals for real-time display on the viewing device or real-time interaction with Web data. If one were to redesign and reinstall the IRDs the obvious approach would be to provide an additional high-speed port. The current invention provides customers with program guide information and Web data that they would not otherwise be able to access.

Wang relates to electronic program guides for digital television systems where the program guides are transmitted in hypertext markup language (HTML) in an MPEG digital television system. The Wang program guides include a rotating data carousel of HTML pages formatted to be transported in the data packets of an MPEG-2 data stream. Wang sends both the television signals and program guides or web pages over the high speed link to the television. Most web pages are retrieved in real time "on the fly" from the work memory in response to commands from the users. (Col 4, lines 53-54). As such the link between the set-top box and the television must be high-speed. Wang makes no mention of a serial data port for debugging the set top box.

Fang discloses television for facilitating use of closed caption text or other information that may be included in an extended data services (SCD) system. The television 10 includes a tuner 12, a television display 14, a data slicer 16, a microcomputer 18, an XDS or closed caption video generator 20, and a data port 22, all contained within a casing 24. The data slicer 16 is coupled to the tuner and extracts an XDS signal 30 carried by the video signal 28, for example by stripping or duplicating the XDS signal 30. The data slicer performs a similar function to Applicant's software means for extracting additional information from the satellite broadcast data stream. The critical difference is that Fang describes a television system that is designed from inception for the purpose of extracting

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the XDS signal. The data slicer is a hardware component that is designed and built into the television.

Applicant's invention provides a novel and non-obvious approach to use the existing and installed base of IRDs to provide additional information to the user without replacing or modifying the IRD hardware or requiring the user to have addition communications hardware. Wang stores web pages in memory on the set-top box and sends them in response to user requests. This use requires a high-speed port and data link. Fang teaches a hardware design for extracting additional information and routing to a second data port. This hardware design is not compatible with reconfiguring either Wang's set top box or Applicant's existing base of IRDs without internal modifications to the IRDs. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 45, 65 and 69 describe patentable subject matter. Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection and issue a notice of allowance.

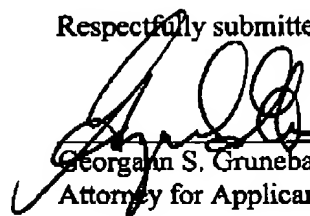
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CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgann S. Grunebach, Reg. No. 33,179
Attorney for Applicants

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The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA/LA1 / A109
P.O. Box 1450
2230 E. Imperial Highway
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

Phone: (310) 964-4615